

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 6, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1, 3 and 21 are amended. Claim 2 was cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-27 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 6-7, 10-11, 12, and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plagens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,492,697). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the feedback connections of claim 2, which was indicated as allowable if rewritten to incorporate claim 1. Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1, and are now believed allowable.

Claim 12 is written in means plus function format, and should be interpreted as including the structure described as accomplishing the function of “applying dynamic bias control to the segmented field plate.” Such a structure is shown in FIG.s 1-3, and described as coupled to conductors. Paragraph 14 indicates that “The diagonal segments of the field plate are driven differentially by an amplified version of the Hall voltage with such polarity as to achieve positive reinforcement between the Hall voltage and the superimposed field-induced voltage.” Thus, the means language clearly encompasses the conductors and an amplifier for providing positive reinforcement. This is similar in structure to amended claim 1. Given this interpretation of claim 12, it is believed that a structure is described which clearly distinguishes from the references.

Claim 21 has been amended to provide for connection between the field plate segments and the Hall element, and is now believed allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5 and 8-9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since the element of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1, these claims are now believed allowable.

Claims 13-20 and 22-27 were indicated to be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date 1-6-2005

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 6 day of January, 2005.

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